

Auditing Procedures Report

Issued under P.A. 2 of 1968, as amended and P.A. 71 of 1919, as amended.

Local Unit of Government Type <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twp <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Other		Local Unit Name Sylvan Township	County Osceola
Fiscal Year End 3-31-06	Opinion Date 5-23-06	Date Audit Report Submitted to State July 11, 2006	

We affirm that:


We are certified public accountants licensed to practice in Michigan.

We further affirm the following material, "no" responses have been disclosed in the financial statements, including the notes, or in the Management Letter (report of comments and recommendations).

- YES NO Check each applicable box below. (See instructions for further detail.)
- ☒ ☐ All required component units/funds/agencies of the local unit are included in the financial statements and/or disclosed in the reporting entity notes to the financial statements as necessary.
 - ☒ ☐ There are no accumulated deficits in one or more of this unit's unreserved fund balances/unrestricted net assets (P.A. 275 of 1980) or the local unit has not exceeded its budget for expenditures.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit is in compliance with the Uniform Chart of Accounts issued by the Department of Treasury.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit has adopted a budget for all required funds.
 - ☒ ☐ A public hearing on the budget was held in accordance with State statute.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit has not violated the Municipal Finance Act, an order issued under the Emergency Municipal Loan Act, or other guidance as issued by the Local Audit and Finance Division.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit has not been delinquent in distributing tax revenues that were collected for another taxing unit.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit only holds deposits/investments that comply with statutory requirements.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit has no illegal or unauthorized expenditures that came to our attention as defined in the *Bulletin for Audits of Local Units of Government in Michigan*, as revised (see Appendix H of Bulletin).
 - ☒ ☐ There are no indications of defalcation, fraud or embezzlement, which came to our attention during the course of our audit that have not been previously communicated to the Local Audit and Finance Division (LAFD). If there is such activity that has not been communicated, please submit a separate report under separate cover.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit is free of repeated comments from previous years.
 - ☒ ☐ The audit opinion is UNQUALIFIED.
 - ☒ ☐ The local unit has complied with GASB 34 or GASB 34 as modified by MCGAA Statement #7 and other generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
 - ☒ ☐ The board or council approves all invoices prior to payment as required by charter or statute.
 - ☒ ☐ To our knowledge, bank reconciliations that were reviewed were performed timely.

If a local unit of government (authorities and commissions included) is operating within the boundaries of the audited entity and is not included in this or any other audit report, nor do they obtain a stand-alone audit, please enclose the name(s), address(es), and a description(s) of the authority and/or commission.

I, the undersigned, certify that this statement is complete and accurate in all respects.

We have enclosed the following:	Enclosed	Not Required (enter a brief justification)	
Financial Statements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
The letter of Comments and Recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other (Describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Certified Public Accountant (Firm Name) Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.		Telephone Number 231-775-9789	
Street Address 134 West Harris Street		City Cadillac	State MI
Zip 49601			
Authorizing CPA Signature 	Printed Name Michael D. Cool, C.P.A.	License Number 1101023146	

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MARCH 31, 2006

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
OSCEOLA, MICHIGAN

MARCH 31, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGES</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	i-ii
Management's Discussion and Analysis	iii-viii
Basic Financial Statements	
Government-Wide Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Assets	1
Statement of Activities	2
Fund Financial Statements	
Governmental Funds	
Balance Sheet	3
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Assets	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	5
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes In	
Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities	6
Fiduciary Fund	
Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets and Liabilities	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8-18
Required Supplementary Information	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Major Governmental Funds	19
Financial Statements of Individual Funds	
Agency Funds	
<u>Current Tax Collection Fund</u>	
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities	20
Other Information	
Statement of 2005 Tax Roll	21
Letter of Comments and Recommendations	22-23
Letter of Reportable Conditions	24-25

134 WEST HARRIS STREET
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601
231-775-9789
FAX: 231-775-9749

M. WAYNE BEATTIE, C.P.A.
1902 - 1990
JACK H. BAIRD, C.P.A.
JERRY L. COTTER, C.P.A.
DALE D. COTTER, C.P.A.

JOHN H. BISHOP, C.P.A.
ROBERT V. BEATTIE, C.P.A.
DOUGLAS P. McMULLEN, C.P.A.
JOHN F. TAYLOR, C.P.A.
STEVEN C. ARENDS, C.P.A.
SCOTT A. HUNTER., C.P.A.
JONATHAN E. DAMHOF, C.P.A.
MICHAEL D. COOL, C.P.A.

Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

May 23, 2006

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Township Board
Sylvan Township
Osceola County
Evart, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sylvan Township, Osceola County, Evart, Michigan as of and for the year ended March 31, 2006, which collectively comprise the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sylvan Township, Osceola County, Evart, Michigan as of March 31, 2006, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note I, the Township has implemented a new financial reporting model as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments* as of April 1, 2004.

The management's discussion and analysis on pages iii through viii and budgetary comparison information on page 19 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Sylvan Township, Osceola County, Evart, Michigan's basic financial statements. The individual fund financial statements, and other supplementary information are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Sylvan Township, a general law township located in Osceola County has implemented the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 (GASB 34). The Management's Discussion and Analysis, a requirement of GASB 34, is intended to be the Sylvan Township board's discussion and analysis of the financial results for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006.

Financial Highlights

- ◆ The assets of the Township exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$245,940. Of this amount, \$194,778 may be used to meet the township's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- ◆ As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Township's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$194,778. 100% is available for spending at the Township's discretion.
- ◆ The Township is not obligated under any long-term debt as of March 31, 2006.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Township's basic financial statements. The Township's basic financial statements are comprised of three components. 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements The government-wide financial statements, required by GASB 34, are new and being shown for the first time in 2006 for Sylvan Township. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Township's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. These statements are calculated using full accrual accounting and more closely represent those presented by business and industry. The entire Township's assets and liabilities, both short and long-term, are reported. As such, these statements include capital assets, net of related depreciation.

The *Statement of Net Assets* presents information on all of the Township's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Township is improving or deteriorating.

The *Statement of Activities* presents information showing how the Township's net assets changed during the fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported when the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in the future fiscal periods.

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Township's that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from functions that

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities).

Fund Financial Statements

The fund level statements are reported on a modified accrual basis in that only those assets that are “measurable” and “currently available” are reported. Liabilities are recognized to the extent they are normally expected to be paid with current financial resources.

Governmental Funds – Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, the governmental fund statements focus on current sources and uses of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government’s near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statement, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government’s near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental fund statements of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Proprietary Funds – Proprietary funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The Township does not maintain any proprietary funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information

In addition to the basic financial statements, this report further presents Required Supplementary Information (RSI) that explains and supports the information presented in the financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The Statement of Net Assets is the first statement in the Government-Wide Financial Statements section of this document. This statement is useful for providing an indicator of the Township’s financial position over time. The Net Assets of the Township are \$245,940 at March 31, 2006, meaning the Township’s assets were greater than its liabilities by this amount.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Sylvan Township
Net Assets as of March 31, 2006

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	<u>\$ 197,195</u>
Non Current Assets	
Capital Assets	68,090
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>16,928</u>
 Total Non Current Assets	 <u>51,162</u>
 Total Assets	 <u><u>\$ 248,357</u></u>
 Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,417</u>
 Net Assets	
Invested in Capital Assets	51,162
Unrestricted	<u>194,778</u>
 Total Net Assets	 <u>245,940</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u><u>\$ 248,357</u></u>

The most significant portions of the Township's Net Assets are cash and investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, equipment, infrastructure, and others) less any related debt that is outstanding that the Township used to acquire the asset. The Township has \$194,778 in unrestricted Net Assets. These assets represent resources that are available for appropriation, but are limited by Township policies regarding their use.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Township is able to report positive balances in all categories of net assets for the government as a whole, as well as for its separate governmental activities.

The total net assets of the Township increased by \$30,299 in this fiscal year, which is an indicator that the Township experienced positive financial growth during the year. As a result, the Township ended the fiscal year in better condition than when the year began.

The following table illustrates and summarizes the results of the changes in the net assets for the Township. The condensed information was derived from the government-wide Statement of Activities.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Sylvan Township
Change in Net Assets
for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2006

Governmental
Activities

Revenues

Program Revenues

Charges for Services	\$ 646
----------------------	--------

General Revenues

Taxes	32,047
State Grants	73,125
Licenses and Permits	25
Interest Earnings	4,731
Other	<u>2,019</u>

Total Revenues	<u><u>\$ 112,593</u></u>
-----------------------	--------------------------

Expenses

Legislative	\$ 7,392
General Government	49,632
Public Safety	15,921
Public Works	3,252
Recreational and Cultural	750
Other Functions	<u>5,347</u>

Total Expenses	<u>82,294</u>
-----------------------	---------------

Change in Net Assets	30,299
----------------------	--------

NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	<u>215,641</u>
--------------------------------	----------------

NET ASSETS - End of Year	<u><u>\$ 245,940</u></u>
--------------------------	--------------------------

Governmental Activities

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006, the Township's net assets increased by \$30,299 in the governmental funds. The majority of this increase represents the degree to which increases in ongoing revenues have outstripped similar increases in ongoing expenses. This is true despite the fact that GASB 34

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

now requires the Township to maintain a record of annual depreciation expense and the accumulation of depreciation expense over time. The net increase in accumulated depreciation expense is a reduction in net assets.

A significant portion of the revenue for all governmental activities of Sylvan Township comes from property taxes. The Township levied 1.00 mills for operating purposes.

State shared revenue is collected by the State of Michigan and distributed to local governments by formula allocation of portions of the State sales tax.

The Township's governmental activities expenses are dominated by general governmental expenses that total 60% of total expenses. The Township spent \$49,632 in fiscal year 2006 on General Administrative expenses. Public Safety represented the next largest expense at \$15,921, or 19% of total expenses.

Business-Type Activities

The Township does not maintain any Business-Type Activities.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

Governmental Funds The focus of Sylvan Township's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Township's financing requirement. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

At the end of the current fiscal year, Sylvan Township's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$194,778. 100% constitutes unreserved fund balance.

General Fund – The General Fund increased its fund balance by \$24,650 which brings the fund balance to \$194,778. The General Fund's fund balance is unreserved. All of the General Fund's functions, except for Legislative and Public Safety, ended the year with expenditures below budgeted amounts. The Legislative and Public Safety differentials were funded by available fund balance. Taxes amounted to \$32,047. State shared revenues were collected in the amount of \$73,125.

Proprietary Fund – The Township does not maintain any proprietary funds.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets. The Township's investment in capital assets for governmental activities as of March 31, 2006 amounted to \$51,162 net of accumulated depreciation.

Capital assets summarized below include any items purchased with a cost greater than \$400 individually and that have a useful life greater than one year. A summary of capital asset categories is illustrated below:

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

Sylvan Township
Capital Assets as of March 31, 2006

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Land	\$ 16,000
Building and Building Improvements	13,125
Infrastructure	28,144
Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures	<u>10,821</u>
	68,090
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>16,928</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u><u>\$ 51,162</u></u>

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

- The Township significantly improved drain #3
- The Township purchased a new computer

Long-Term Debt. Sylvan Township has no obligation for any long-term debt as of March 31, 2006.

Economic Condition and Outlook

The unemployment rate is still high in the State of Michigan and the State's shortfall in the budget means potential further reductions in state-shared revenues.

These factors were considered in preparing the Township's budgets for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Request for Information

The financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Township's finances and to demonstrate the Township's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need any additional information, contact Sylvan Township at 6661 20th Avenue, Sears, Michigan 49679.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
MARCH 31, 2006

	<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$ 174,972
Receivables	
External Parties (Fiduciary Fund)	826
Taxes Receivable	3,763
Due from Other Governments	<u>17,634</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>197,195</u>
<u>CAPITAL ASSETS</u>	
Land	16,000
Buildings	2,000
Building Improvements	11,125
Infrastructure	28,144
Equipment, Furniture and Other	<u>10,821</u>
	68,090
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>16,928</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>51,162</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>248,357</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
Accounts Payable	2,084
Payroll Taxes and Withholdings	<u>333</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,417</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	
Invested in Capital Assets Net of Related Debt	51,162
Unrestricted	<u>194,778</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 245,940</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES			NET (EXPENSES)
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	REVENUES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
					TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
<u>PRIMARY GOVERNMENT</u>					
<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>					
Legislative	\$ 7,392	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (7,392)
General Government	49,632	646	0	0	(48,986)
Public Safety	15,921	0	0	0	(15,921)
Public Works	3,252	0	0	0	(3,252)
Recreation and Cultural	750	0	0	0	(750)
Other Functions	5,347	0	0	0	(5,347)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 82,294	\$ 646	\$ 0	\$ 0	(81,648)
<u>GENERAL REVENUES</u>					
Taxes					32,047
Licenses and Permits					25
State Grants					73,125
Interest Earnings					4,731
Other					2,019
Total General Revenues					111,947
Change in Net Assets					30,299
<u>NET ASSETS</u> - Beginning of Year					215,641
<u>NET ASSETS</u> - End of Year					\$ 245,940

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET
MARCH 31, 2006

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$ 174,972
Taxes Receivable	3,763
Due from Other Governments	17,634
Due from Other Funds	826
Total Assets	<u>\$ 197,195</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>	
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,084
Payroll Taxes and Withholdings	333
Total Liabilities	<u>2,417</u>
 <u>FUND BALANCE</u>	
Unreserved	
Undesignated	<u>194,778</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	 <u>\$ 197,195</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
MARCH 31, 2006

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds	\$ 194,778
--	------------

Amounts Reported for Governmental Activities in the
Statement of Net Assets are Different Because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not
financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Land	\$ 16,000	
Buildings	2,000	
Building Improvements	11,125	
Infrastructure	28,144	
Equipment, Furniture and Other	10,821	
Accumulated Depreciation	(16,928)	51,162

NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u>\$ 245,940</u>
---------------------------------------	-------------------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

EVART, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	GENERAL FUND
<u>REVENUES</u>	
Taxes	\$ 32,047
Licenses and Permits	25
State Grants	73,125
Charges for Services	246
Interest and Rents	5,131
Other Revenues	2,019
Total Revenues	112,593
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Legislative	7,392
General Government	49,112
Public Safety	15,921
Public Works	9,421
Recreation and Cultural	750
Other Functions	5,347
Total Expenditures	87,943
Net Change in Fund Balance	24,650
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - Beginning of Year	170,128
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - End of Year	\$ 194,778

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
MARCH 31, 2006

Net change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$ 24,650
Amounts reported for governmental activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures in the statement of activities. These costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation.	
Depreciation Expense	(2,554)
Capital Outlay	<u>8,203</u>
 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	 <u><u>\$ 30,299</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
MARCH 31, 2006

	<u>AGENCY FUNDS</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash	<u>\$ 826</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Due to General Fund	<u>\$ 826</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

Sylvan Township is a general law township located in Osceola County which operates under the direction of an elected township board. Under the criteria established by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the Township has determined that there are no component units which should be included in its reporting entity.

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

During fiscal year 2005, the Township adopted GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, as amended by GASB Statements No. 37 and No. 38, and applied those standards on a retroactive basis. GASB Statement No. 34 establishes standards for external financial reporting for state and local governments and requires that resources be classified for accounting and reporting purposes into the following three net asset categories.

Invested in Capital assets, net of related debt consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding balances for bonds, notes, and other debt that are attributed to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

Restricted net assets result when constraints placed on net asset use are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, and contributions, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net assets consist of net assets which do not meet the definition of the two preceding categories.

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of changes in net assets) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Township as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities of the fiscal period. The fund financial statements are similar to the financial statements presented in the previous financial reporting model.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Basis of Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes, franchise taxes, licenses, interest and special assessments associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Only the portion of special assessment receivables due within the current period is considered to be susceptible to accrual as revenue of the current period. Sales taxes collected and held by the state at year end on behalf of the government are also recognized as revenue. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government.

Entitlements and shared revenues are recorded at the time of receipt or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria are met. Expenditure-driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other grant requirements have been met.

The accounts of the Township are organized on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds are maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

Sylvan Township reports the following major governmental funds:

The *General Fund* is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Additionally, Sylvan Township reports the following fund types:

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

Agency funds are custodial in nature and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. Agency funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. These funds are used to account for assets that the Township holds for others in an agency capacity.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in both the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Governments also have the option of following subsequent private-sector guidance for their business-type activities and enterprise funds, subject to this same limitation. The government has elected not to follow subsequent private-sector guidance.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are payments-in-lieu of taxes and other charges between the other functions of the government. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions involved. Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Township's policy to use the restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. Assets, Liabilities and Equity

1. Deposits and Investments

The Township's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from date of acquisition.

I. The Township has authorized the Treasurer to invest the Township funds as follows:

- a. In bonds, securities, and other obligations of the United States, or an agency or instrumentality of the United States.
- b. In certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a financial institution, but only if the financial institution is approved by the township.
- c. In commercial paper rated at the time of purchase within the two highest classifications established by not less than two standard rating services and that matures not more than 270 days after the date of purchase.
- d. In repurchase agreements consisting of instruments listed in subdivision (a).

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

- e. In banker's acceptances of United States banks;
- f. In obligations of this state or any of its political subdivisions that at the time of purchase are rated as investment grade by not less than 1 standard rating service.
- g. In mutual funds registered under the investment company act of 1940, title I of chapter 686, 54 Stat. 789, 15 U.S.C. 80a-1 to 80a-3 and 80a-4 to 80a-64, with authority to purchase only investment vehicles that are legal for direct investment by a public corporation. This authorization is limited to securities whose intention is to maintain a net asset value of \$1 per share.
- h. In obligations described in subdivisions (a) through (g) if purchased through an interlocal agreement under the urban cooperation act of 1967, 1967(Ex Sess) PA 7, MCL 124.501 to 124.512.
- i. In investment pools organized under the surplus funds investment pool act, 1982 PA 367, MCL 129.111 to 129.118.
- j. In investment pools organized under the local government investment pool act, 1985 PA 121, MCL 129.141 to 129.150.
- II. A public corporation that invests its funds under subsection (I) shall not deposit or invest the funds in a financial institution that is not eligible to be a depository of funds belonging to the state under a law or rule of this state or the United States.

Assets acceptable for pledging to secure deposits of public funds are limited to assets authorized for direct investment under subsection (I).

As used in this section "financial institution" means a state or nationally chartered bank or a state or federally chartered savings and loan association, savings bank, or credit union whose deposits are insured by an agency of the United States government and that maintains a principal office or branch office located in this state under the laws of this state or the United States.

2. Receivables and Payables

Transactions between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

All trade and property tax receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles. Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on the property as of the date they are levied. State education taxes and one-third of county taxes are levied and due July 1, and become delinquent after September 14. The remaining millages are levied and due December 1, and become delinquent after February 14. Collections of taxes and remittances of them are accounted for in the Current Tax Collection Fund. Township property tax revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available for use to finance Township operations. Amounts which are not expected to be collected within sixty days are treated as deferred revenues.

The 2005 taxable valuation of Sylvan Township totaled \$25,821,620, on which ad valorem taxes levied consisted of 1.00 mills for Sylvan Township operating purposes. The levy raised approximately \$25,821 for operating purposes.

3. *Inventories and Prepaid Items*

Inventories are not significant and are expensed as incurred.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items.

4. *Capital Assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$400 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Property, plant and equipment of the primary government are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Buildings	50
Building improvements	20
Land improvements	20
Infrastructure	20
Equipment, Furniture, and Other	5-10

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

Sylvan Township qualifies as a phase 3 governmental unit in regards to the implementation of GASB 34. Phase 3 governmental units are not required to retroactively capitalize infrastructure. As a result, the Township will capitalize and depreciate infrastructure beginning April 1, 2004, in accordance with the Township's capitalization policy.

5. *Long-term Obligations*

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

6. *Fund Equity*

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

7. *Use of Estimates*

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

II. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. *Budgetary Information*

The annual budget is adopted on the modified accrual basis in accordance with the requirements of Michigan Public Act 621 of 1978 "The Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act". A public hearing is held to obtain taxpayer comments. Appropriations lapse at year end. Budget amounts are as originally adopted on March 31, 2005, or as amended by the Township Board from time to time throughout the year.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund and activity. The Township Board exercises budgetary control over expenditures.

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the Township because it is, at present, not considered necessary to assure effective budgetary control or to facilitate effective cash planning and control.

III. DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

A. Deposits and Investments

The Township's deposits are all on deposit with Central Michigan Community Federal Credit Union in Clare, Michigan. At year-end, the carrying amount of the Township's deposits was \$175,798 and the bank balance was \$177,214. Of the bank balance, \$108,787 was covered by Federal depository insurance and \$68,427 was uninsured and uncollateralized.

Investment rate risk. The Township will minimize Interest Rate Risk, which is the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fall due to changes in market interest rates, by; structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market; and investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investing pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the Township's cash requirement.

Foreign currency risk. The Township is not authorized to invest in investments, which have this type of risk.

Credit risk. The Township will minimize Custodial Credit Risk, which is the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by; limiting investments to the types of securities listed in the Township's investment policy; and pre-qualifying the financial institutions, brokers/dealer, intermediaries and advisors with which the Township will do business in accordance with the Township's investment policy.

Concentration of credit risk. The Township will minimize Concentration of Credit Risk, which is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Township's investment in a single issuer, by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized.

Custodial credit risk – deposits. In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. As of March 31, 2006, \$68,427 of the government's bank balance of \$177,214 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

Custodial credit risk – investments. For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the government will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Township's investments are categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Township at year end. Category 1 includes investments that are insured or registered, or securities held by the Township or the Township's agent in the Township's name. Category 2 includes investments that are uninsured and unregistered with securities held by the counterparty's trust department or its agent in the Township's name. Category 3 includes investments that are uninsured and unregistered, with the securities held by the counterparty, or by its trust department or its agent but not in the Township's name. At year end, the Township held no investments.

B. Receivables

The allowance for doubtful accounts is not considered to be material for disclosure. As a result, its uncollectible accounts are virtually nil.

Governmental funds report deferred revenue in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. Governmental funds also defer revenue recognition in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned. At the end of the fiscal year, the Township did not have any deferred revenue.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

C. Capital Assets

Primary Government

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental activities:</u>				
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 16,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 16,000
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Buildings	2,000	0	0	2,000
Building Improvements	11,125	0	0	11,125
Infrastructure	20,812	7,332	0	28,144
Equipment, Furniture and Other	9,950	871	0	10,821
Total capital assets, being depreciated	43,887	8,203	0	52,090
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Building	2,000	0	0	2,000
Building Improvements	2,802	556	0	3,358
Infrastructure	546	1,163	0	1,709
Equipment, Furniture, and Other	9,026	835	0	9,861
Total accumulated depreciation	14,374	2,554	0	16,928
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	29,513	5,649	0	35,162
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 45,513	\$ 5,649	\$ 0	\$ 51,162

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental activities:

 General Government \$ 2,554

Construction Commitments:

 The government has no outstanding construction commitments as of March 31, 2006.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

D. Interfund Receivables, Payables and Transfers

Individual fund interfund receivable and payable balances at March 31, 2006, were:

<u>Fund</u>	INTERFUND RECEIVABLES DUE FROM'S	INTERFUND PAYABLES DUE TO'S
General Fund	\$ 826	\$ 0
Fiduciary Funds		
Current Tax Collection Fund	0	826
	<u>\$ 826</u>	<u>\$ 826</u>

All remaining balances resulted from the time lag between the dates that (1) interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, (2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system, and (3) payments between funds are made. All are expected to be resolved within one year.

E. Long-Term Debt

At March 31, 2006, the Township was not obligated for any long-term debt.

F. Fund Balance Reserves

The Township does not maintain any fund balance reserves.

G. Joint Fire District

The Township is a member of the Evert Area Joint Fire Department. The Fire Board maintains the records for the fire department. The Township's assessment for support of the fire department for 2005-2006 was \$14,791. The fire district also charges the Township for fire runs made in the Township. The fire district is a joint venture supported by the City of Evert and the Townships of Evert, Orient, Osceola and Sylvan. The financial statements of the fire district are included in the City of Evert's comprehensive annual financial report. The following information was taken from the City of Evert's June 30, 2004 audited financial statements.

Total Assets	\$ 93,744
Total Liabilities	550
Fund Balance	93,194
Total Revenues	108,725
Total Expenditures	137,075
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(28,350)

A copy of these financial statements may be obtained upon request from the Evert City Treasurer.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Risk Management

The Township has purchased commercial insurance policies in order to minimize any potential risk of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	GENERAL FUND			
	ORIGINAL BUDGET	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET
<u>REVENUES</u>				
Taxes	\$ 29,627	\$ 29,627	\$ 32,047	\$ 2,420
Licenses and Permits	200	200	25	(175)
State Grants	76,237	76,237	73,125	(3,112)
Charges for Services	320	300	246	(54)
Interest and Rents	2,000	2,000	5,131	3,131
Other Revenues	0	0	2,019	2,019
Total Revenues	108,384	108,364	112,593	4,229
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Legislative				
Township Board	5,016	6,280	7,392	(1,112)
General Government				
Supervisor	8,233	8,633	8,383	250
Assessor	11,186	9,645	8,813	832
Clerk	10,863	11,263	10,867	396
Board of Review	1,900	2,100	1,295	805
Treasurer	13,018	13,018	12,844	174
Elections	700	1,000	720	280
Building and Grounds	5,050	5,150	4,084	1,066
Cemetery	4,300	4,300	2,106	2,194
Public Safety				
Fire Department	15,836	15,836	15,921	(85)
Public Works				
Highways, Streets and Bridges	2,500	9,500	7,332	2,168
Street Lighting	120	120	111	9
Sanitation Department	2,425	2,693	1,978	715
Recreation and Cultural				
Library	750	750	750	0
Other Functions				
Insurance and Bonds	1,400	1,400	1,220	180
Employers Share of Payroll Taxes	3,375	3,375	3,265	110
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,100	1,100	862	238
Total Expenditures	87,772	96,163	87,943	8,220
Net Change in Fund Balance	20,612	12,201	24,650	12,449
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - Beginning of Year	0	0	170,128	170,128
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - End of Year	\$ 20,612	\$ 12,201	\$ 194,778	\$ 182,577

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
EVART, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF 2005 TAX ROLL
MARCH 31, 2006

TAXES ASSESSED

County	\$	186,122	
Township		25,822	
Schools			
Ewart Public Schools		261,084	
Marion Public Schools		6,912	
Intermediate Schools			
Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School		103,737	
Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School		<u>2,656</u>	\$ 586,333

TAXES COLLECTED

County	\$	159,144	
Township		22,059	
Schools			
Ewart Public Schools		224,324	
Marion Public Schools		6,755	
Intermediate Schools			
Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School		88,591	
Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School		<u>2,310</u>	503,183

TAXES RETURNED DELINQUENT

County	\$	26,978	
Township		3,763	
Schools			
Ewart Public Schools		36,760	
Marion Public Schools		157	
Intermediate Schools			
Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School		15,146	
Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School		<u>346</u>	<u>\$ 83,150</u>

134 WEST HARRIS STREET
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601
231-775-9789
FAX: 231-775-9749

M. WAYNE BEATTIE, C.P.A.
1902 - 1990
JACK H. BAIRD, C.P.A.
JERRY L. COTTER, C.P.A.
DALE D. COTTER, C.P.A.

JOHN H. BISHOP, C.P.A.
ROBERT V. BEATTIE, C.P.A.
DOUGLAS P. McMULLEN, C.P.A.
JOHN F. TAYLOR, C.P.A.
STEVEN C. ARENDS, C.P.A.
SCOTT A. HUNTER, C.P.A.
JONATHAN E. DAMHOF, C.P.A.
MICHAEL D. COOL, C.P.A.

Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

May 23, 2006

LETTER OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Township Board
Sylvan Township
Osceola County
Ewart, Michigan

During the course of our audit of the financial statements of Sylvan Township for the year ended March 31, 2006, we noted the following items:

Budgeting

The Public Act 621 states that the budget document that the Township adopts include the following financial information.

The actual results from the prior year

An estimate of the current year results

The proposed budget for the upcoming year

Amounts for contingencies, if appropriate

The amount of fund balance accumulated through the end of the current year, and the amount expected at the end of the upcoming year, after applying the budgeted receipts and disbursements.

The Township board is also responsible for amending the budget during the year to allow for expenditures in excess of original appropriations, or to reduce appropriations if it appears the actual expenditures will be much less than originally appropriated.

The adoption of the budgets for each fund should be clearly noted in the board minutes, as well as any amendments to the budget throughout the year.

Internal Control

While we observed that bills are approved for payment by the Township Board, we did not observe evidence of approval for payment on the bills/invoices (source documents) themselves. We suggest that

as a method of strengthening internal control, the Township consider having a board member such as Supervisor or Trustee sign or initial the source document as “approved” at the time the approval is made.

Reconciliation Between Clerk and Treasurer

We noted that the Clerk and Treasurer have treated certain year end expenditures differently. The Treasurer has certain items as expenditures in one year, and the Clerk has those items as expenditures in the next year. We recommend that the Clerk and Treasurer use the same cut-off date.

GASB 34

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued Statement #34. We have assisted the Township with complying with the GASB 34 requirements of the State of Michigan and GASB. The financial statements are quite different as a result of this drastic change. We recommend the board review the new financial statements, and we are available to help explain the changes in detail, if needed.

We would like to thank the board for its continued confidence in our firm and to thank the township officers for their cooperation.

If you have any questions relative to the above comments and recommendations or other areas of your annual accounting, please feel free to call on us.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.

134 WEST HARRIS STREET
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601
231-775-9789
FAX: 231-775-9749

M. WAYNE BEATTIE, C.P.A.
1902 - 1990
JACK H. BAIRD, C.P.A.
JERRY L. COTTER, C.P.A.
DALE D. COTTER, C.P.A.

JOHN H. BISHOP, C.P.A.
ROBERT V. BEATTIE, C.P.A.
DOUGLAS P. McMULLEN, C.P.A.
JOHN F. TAYLOR, C.P.A.
STEVEN C. ARENDS, C.P.A.
SCOTT A. HUNTER, C.P.A.
JONATHAN E. DAMHOF, C.P.A.
MICHAEL D. COOL, C.P.A.

Baird, Cotter and Bishop, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

May 23, 2006

LETTER OF REPORTABLE CONDITIONS

To the Township Board
Sylvan Township
Osceola County
Evart, Michigan

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Sylvan Township, Osceola County, Evart, Michigan for the year ended March 31, 2006, we considered its internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure. However, we noted certain matters that we consider to be reportable conditions under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control structure that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the organization's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

The relatively small number of people involved in the accounting functions of the Township and the design of the accounting system as developed by the state make it difficult to adequately segregate duties. Segregation of accounting duties is a fundamental method of strengthening internal control. However, in deciding what internal control procedures should be implemented, the Board must consider the costs of implementing them and weigh those costs against the benefits to be derived from their implementation.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses as defined above. However, we believe that the condition described above is a material weakness.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board and others within the organization. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of the report, which is a matter of public record.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.